

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-40 were pending. Claims 1-10 and 27-40 have been cancelled (without prejudice). No new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 11, 17-18 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gunjima (U.S. Patent 5,587,816); Claims 12-16 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunjima in view of Jiang (U.S. Patent 6,573,961); and Claims 19 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunjima in view of Jiang and in further view of Uchiyama (U.S. Patent 6,177,153).

Applicants have rewritten Claim 11 and submit that Claim 11 overcomes the rejection. Claim 11 recites that the LCD device contains a second polarizing plate that has a light-diffusion layer on a surface thereof. None of the references, alone or in combination, anticipate or suggest such an arrangement. For example, the Examiner indicated that Gunjima discloses a polarizing plate 9 and a light-diffusion layer 8. Even if 9 is a polarizing plate and 8 is a light-diffusion layer, neither the figures nor the text of the specification teaches that the light-diffusion layer 8 is disposed on a surface of the polarizing plate 9. To the contrary, Figs. 1 and 2 appear to indicate that a gap exists between the polarizing plate 9 and a light-diffusion layer 8. Jiang does not remedy this deficiency.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, amended Claim 11 is patentable over the cited references.

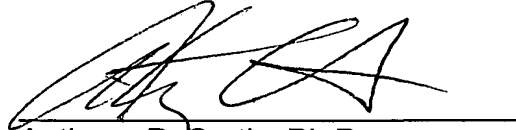
Dependent Claims 12-26 are dependent upon an allowable claim. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable, without more.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and

believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues,
he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AP Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

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